

# VERB-PHRASE RULES IN PUNJABI

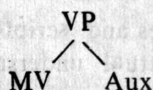
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## The Auxiliary

The following rules are only tentative, since hardly any work on Punjabi transformational grammar has been done. These phrase structure rules are couched in generalizations, and making them more context sensitive and exhaustive is possible.

A verb phrase in Punjabi comprises two obligatory major categories : the main verb (MV) and the auxiliary (Aux).

The Punjabi verb phrase at its simplest can be given the following diagrammatic representation :



The rules for the auxiliary are as follows :

$$\text{VP}^* \rightarrow \text{MV} + \text{Aux}$$

$$\text{Aux} \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{(Modal)} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{ve(ga)} \\ \text{da} \\ \text{Ia} \end{array} \right\} \text{(Tns)} \\ \text{r/a + Tns} \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\text{Tns} \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Present} \\ \text{Past} \\ \text{Contingent} \\ \text{Past contingent} \\ \text{Presumptive} \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\text{Modal} \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{sək} \\ \text{cUk} \end{array} \right\}$$

These rules of the auxiliary in Punjabi provide further information or specification about the main verb.

\*For a more comprehensive treatment refer to Gurkirpal Singh Sekhon, "Rules of the Categorical Component in Punjabi," *Pakha Sanjam*. Vol. XVIII. 1985.

[[The following important features of Punjabi auxiliary system affecting its surface structure must be noted. One is that the tense in Punjabi is realised if it is immediately preceded by *ho*; if not *ho* must be introduced by applying an appropriate transformational rule. The second point worth noting is that though the tense choice is not obligatory in certain situations, it is very usually selected.

Taking *mər* 'to die', we can illustrate the full paradigm for the tense, as below. It will be seen that verbs are marked for tense, number, gender, and person. Number, gender and tense affect the verb; and tense, number and person affect *ho*.

## Present Imperfect

	1st Person	2nd Person	3rd Person
M/Sg	<i>mərda hā</i>	<i>mərda hē</i>	<i>mərda he</i>
Pl	<i>mərde hā</i>	<i>mərde ho</i>	<i>mərde hən</i>
F/Sg	<i>mərđi hā</i>	<i>mərđi hē</i>	<i>mərđi he</i>
Pl	<i>mərđiā hā</i>	<i>mərđiā ho</i>	<i>mərđiā hən</i>

## Present Perfect

	1st Person	2nd Person	3rd Person
M/Sg	<i>mərIa hā</i>	<i>mərIa hē</i>	<i>mərIa he</i>
Pl	<i>məre hā</i>	<i>məre ho</i>	<i>məre hən</i>
F/Sg	<i>məri hā</i>	<i>məri hē</i>	<i>məri he</i>
Pl	<i>məriā hā</i>	<i>məriā ho</i>	<i>məriā hən</i>

## Past Imperfect

	1st Person	2nd Person	3rd Person
M/Sg	<i>mərda sā</i>	<i>mərda sē</i>	<i>mərda si</i>
Pl	<i>mərde sā</i>	<i>mərde so</i>	<i>mərde sən</i>
F/Sg	<i>mərđi sā</i>	<i>mərđi sē</i>	<i>mərđi si</i>
Pl	<i>mərđiā sā</i>	<i>mərđiā so</i>	<i>mərđiā sən</i>

## Past Perfect

	1st Person	2nd Person	3rd Person
M/Sg	<i>mərIa sā</i>	<i>mərIa sē</i>	<i>mərIa si</i>
Pl	<i>məre sā</i>	<i>məre so</i>	<i>məre sən</i>
F/Sg	<i>məri sā</i>	<i>məri sē</i>	<i>məri si</i>
Pl	<i>məriā sā</i>	<i>məriā so</i>	<i>məriā sən</i>

## Contingent Imperfect

	1st Person	2nd Person	3rd Person
M/Sg	<i>mərda hovā</i>	<i>mərda hovē</i>	<i>mərda hove</i>
Pl	<i>mərde hoie</i>	<i>mərde hovo</i>	<i>mərde hoṇ</i>
F/Sg	<i>mərđi hovā</i>	<i>mərđi hovē</i>	<i>mərđi hove</i>
Pl	<i>mərđiā hoie</i>	<i>mərđiā hovo</i>	<i>mərđiā hoṇ</i>

## Contingent Perfect

	1st Person	2nd Person	3rd Person
M/Sg	<i>mərIa hovā</i>	<i>mərIa hovē</i>	<i>mərIa hove</i>
Pl	<i>məre hoie</i>	<i>məre hovo</i>	<i>məre hoṇ</i>
F/Sg	<i>məri hovā</i>	<i>məri hovē</i>	<i>məri hove</i>
Pl	<i>meriā hoie</i>	<i>məriā hovo</i>	<i>məriā hoṇ</i>

## Past Contingent Imperfect

	1st Person	2nd Person	3rd Person
M/Sg	mərda hūda		
Pl	mərde hūde	2nd and 3rd Persons have the same forms as 1st Person.	
F/Sg	mərđi hūdi		
Pl	mərđiā hūdiā		

## Past Contingent Perfect

M/Sg	mərIa hūda		
Pl	məre hūde	2nd and 3rd Persons have the same forms as 1st Person.	
F/Sg	mərđi hūdi		
Pl	mərđiā hūdiā		

## Presumptive Imperfect

M/Sg	mərda hovāga	mərda hovēga	mərda hovega
Pl	mərde hovāge	mərde hovoge	mərde hoŋge
F/Sg	mərđi hovāgi	mərđi hovēgi	mərđi hovegi
Pl	mərđiā hovāgiā	mərđiā hovogiā	mərđiā hoŋgiā

## Prasumptive Perfect

M/Sg	mərIa hovāga	mərIa hovēga	mərIa hovega
Pl	məre hovāge	məre hovoge	məre hoŋge
F/Sg	mərđi hovāgi	mərđi hovēgi	mərđi hovegi
Pl	mərđiā hovāgiā	mərđiā hovogiā	mərđiā hoŋgiā

## Conditional

M/F/Sg	mərā	mərē	məre
Pl	mərie	məro	məren

## Future

M/Sg	mərāga	mərēga	mərega
Pl	mərāge	məroge	mərange
F/Sg	mərāgi	mərēgi	məregi
Pl	mərāgiā	mərogiā	mərangeiā

The forms of *ho* + Tns are as below for 3rd Person Sg.

Present	hə
Past	si
Cantingent	hove
Past Contingent	hūda
Presumptive	hovega

## Verbal Concord

There is a NP — VP concord in Punjabi, but this NP need not always be the subject of the sentence. The rule for the verbal

concord is :

(i) A verb agrees with the subject NP in number and gender except when it is a transitive verb in the perfective aspect (marked by *Ia*) in which case the verb agrees with the object NP in number and gender,

(ii) *ho*, when following a verb, agrees in number and person; with such NP as determines concord when alone, that is, when not preceded by a verb, it agrees with the subject NP in number and person.

SD : N	Numb—g—p	V	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{da} \\ \text{rè} \end{array} \right\}$	ho + Tns,
1,	2,	3,	4,	5,
SC : 1 ... 5	$\Rightarrow$ 1, 2, 3, 4 + Numb—g, 5 + Numb—p			
	raṇi	jāḍi	he	
	kUṛiā	jāḍiā	hən	
	mē	jāda	sā	

SD : N + (Post), N + Numb—g—p, Vtr, Ia. ho + Tns				
1	2,	3.	4.	5,
SD : 1 ... 5	$\Rightarrow$ 1, 2, 3, 4 + Numb—g, 5 + Numb—p			
	raṇi	neḅo	dItte	
	mē	jelebiā	khāei	

### Rule for the attachment of aspect—markers

There are only two aspect markers in Punjabi :

da imperfective aspect marker

Ia perfective aspect marker.

Both of these coalesce with the immediately preceding verb root[]].

### Examples of Auxiliary Patterns

While exemplifying Punjabi auxiliary patterns, we shall limit ourselves to the present and past tenses, ignoring the other three, as their derivation poses no problem :

#### Pattern 1

ó + baṭh + Modal + e

ó baṭh sʌke

ó baṭh cUkke

Pattern 2.

ó + beṭh + e

ó + beṭhe

Pattern 3

ó + beṭh + Modal + e + ga

ó beṭh sṛke ga

ó beṭh cUkke ga

Pattern 4

ó + beṭh + e + ga

ó beṭhe ga

Pattern 5

ó + beṭh + Modal + da

ó beṭh sṛkda

ó beṭh cUkda

Pattern 6

ó + beṭh + Modal + da + ho + Tns

ó beṭh sṛkda he

ó beṭh cUkda he

ó beṭh sṛkda si

ó beṭh cUkda si

Pattern 7

ó + beṭh + da

ó beṭhda

Pattern 8

ó + beṭh + da + ho + Tns

ó beṭhda he

ó beṭhda si

Pattern 9

ó + beṭh + Modal + Ia

ó beṭh sṛkla

ó beṭh cUkkla

Pattern 10

ó + beṭh + Modal + Ia + ho + Tns

ó beṭh sṛkla he

ó beṭh cUkkla he

ó beṭh sṛkla si

ó beṭh cUkkla si

Pattern 11

ó + beṭh + Ia

ó beṭhla

Pattern 12

ó + beṭh + Ia + ho + Tns

ó beṭhia he

ó beṭhla si



## Pattern 13

$$\acute{o} + b\acute{a}\acute{t}h + r\acute{f}a + ho + Tns$$

$$\acute{o} b\acute{a}\acute{t}h r\acute{f}a h\acute{e}$$

$$\acute{o} b\acute{a}\acute{t}h r\acute{f}a si$$
**ho insertion T-rule**

It is time we discussed formally the Punjabi tense carrier. The tense in Punjabi is actualized when immediately preceded by *ho*. Punjabi phrase structure rules automatically provide *ho* if MV is written *ho*. Take, for example, the following string :

$$ram\ ethe\ ho\ +\ Tns$$

$$NP\ Loc\ ho$$

In this case, the tense is preceded by *ho*, and no problem exists in getting a correct sentence like the following :

$$ram\ ethe\ h\acute{e}$$

$$Ram\ here\ is$$

$$'Ram\ is\ here'.$$

But take the following string :

$$ram\ ro\acute{t}i\ kha\ da\ Tns.$$

Now before Tns can be actualized, it needs *ho*, the tense carrier, to precede it, which can be done only by the application of a transformational rule called *ho* insertion T-rule in the following way :

$$ram\ ro\acute{t}i\ kha\ da\ Tns$$

$$SD: NP\ NP\ verb\ da\ Tns$$

$$1,\ 2,\ 3,\ 4,\ 5$$

$$SC: 1\ .\ .\ .\ 5 \Rightarrow 1,\ 2,\ 3,\ 4,\ ho,\ 5$$

which is amenable to the realization of Tns. *ho* introduced in this fashion is meaningless, and different from the one which is the result of rewrite rules of MV. The transformationally introduced *ho* is an auxiliary verb or a helping verb, while the other one is a full verb, to use the traditional terminology.

**The Main Verb**

The verb phrase in Punjabi comprises two major categories: the main verb and the auxiliary. The main verb can be split into two : the optional adverbials and complements followed by the obligatory verb.

The rules for the main verb are :

(1)  $MV \Rightarrow (Optional\ Elements)\ Verb$

(2)  $Verb \Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} ho \\ V_{link} \\ V_{intr} \\ V_{tr} \end{array} \right\} \text{ in specified contexts}$